**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Have a Rock-Solid Faith |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Romans 5:1-5 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2054 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. In these desperate days in which we’re living, we need a faith that will stand fast.
      1. We need some spiritual steel and concrete in our lives.
   2. Many Christians are being blown about by the winds of circumstances, scattered by the storms of calamity, and swept away in floods of affliction.
      1. They don’t seem to have an anchor that will hold in the storm.
      2. They are weak and floundering saints, but God wants us to be strong.
         1. God doesn’t want us to fold up and give up.
         2. He wants us to look up and stand up.
   3. God wants us to have a foundation that is sure.
      1. Romans is a foundation for our faith, a solid Word for an unsure age.
   4. God is in the business of building saints.
      1. When God gives us salvation, He’s not finished with us; He’s beginning with us.
      2. Philippians 1:6
      3. He wants to build into us a rock-solid faith.
   5. Romans 5:1-5
   6. Both peace and tribulation are byproducts of salvation.
      1. Romans 5:1
      2. Romans 5:3
         1. Don’t think that when you get saved, all you get is peace with no problem, no heartache, no tears and no disappointment.
            1. When God builds into us a rock-solid faith, He will mix in some tribulation.
   7. Today’s message will focus on four things that we need to learn if we want to have a rock-solid faith.
2. conversion brings conflict (romans 5:1-3)
   1. “*Being justified by faith*” speaks of peace with God.
      1. Paul is talking about access by faith into this grace.
   2. The word “tribulation” in this passage literally means “pressure.”
      1. The word used here is the same word that is used when a person would crush grapes to get wine and when someone would crush olives to get oil.
         1. God wants to build into our character the wine and oil of His strength and love.
         2. To build this character, God will bring pressure into our lives because without pressure, He cannot make us strong saints.
   3. We need to understand that when we have trouble, heartache, and disappointment, that God is over it all.
      1. God is watching over it all.
         1. This may be hard for us to understand.
         2. Thomas Watson: “Where reason cannot wade, there faith must swim.”
      2. Conflict and pressure may come from Satan, or it may come from God; but God is over all.
         1. Satan will bring conflict to cause us to stumble.
         2. God will bring conflict to cause us to stand.
      3. We will know pressure as Christians.
   4. Pressure will come from the world.
      1. Romans 12:2
      2. When we come to Jesus, the world will begin to bring pressure on us to try to squeeze us into its mold.
         1. We will see this from the entertainment world, the business world, the social world and the political world.
   5. Pressure will come from the flesh.
      1. Once we get saved, we receive a new nature, but the old Adamic nature is still there.
      2. The proclivity to sin is still there.
         1. The Bible calls this “the flesh.”
         2. The flesh is an enemy inside the fort.
         3. We will feel a civil war within us.
      3. Galatians 5:17
   6. Pressure will come from the devil himself.
      1. We never really understand the power of Satan until we get saved.
      2. If you don’t have any difficulty with the devil, it’s because you and the devil are traveling in the same direction.
         1. If you turn around, you’ll have a collision with him; right now, you’re in collusion with him.
      3. When we get saved, Satan levels all of the artillery of Hell against us.
      4. Satan came against Jesus, and he will come against us.
         1. An unsaved person is spiritually dead; therefore, Satan doesn’t have to bother him.
      5. A person may even think that they’re not saved because of the pressure and conflict.
   7. Pressure will come from God.
      1. It will come from God to cause us to stand.
      2. Hebrews 12:6
      3. God is not trying to make us happy, He is trying to make us holy.
      4. Temptations, testing and trials are a part of life.
         1. It is a false gospel that says that we will have no adversity, persecution or pain if we come to Christ.
3. conflict teaches constancy (romans 5:3)
   1. The word “patience” means “constancy.”
      1. When the pressure or crisis comes, it doesn’t make us; it just reveals what we’re made of.
   2. “Patience” also means “endurance.”
   3. We will never have strength, victory, prosperity or contentment without patience.
      1. We will never learn much of anything worth learning if we don’t have constancy, endurance and patience.
         1. If you want to play the piano, you have to learn the scales.
         2. If you want to learn Greek, you have to study the verbs.
         3. If you want to build character, you have to persevere and endure.
      2. There is no instant maturity.
      3. Conversion brings conflict, and conflict is meant to teach constancy and patience.
   4. There are four things we can do when conflict comes:
      1. Retreat
         1. Some people run away from conflict, either physically or emotionally.
      2. Resent
         1. They pout and hold a grudge against God.
         2. They become cynical.
      3. Resign
         1. They cave in and give up.
            1. They lie down on the field and surrender their shield.
         2. They give in to discouragement and despondency.
      4. Resolve
         1. God’s plan is for us to resolve by faith that we will follow Him.
         2. Faith is shown more in patience and constancy than in any other way.
         3. If you really have faith when trouble comes, you will endure.
         4. Faith is not receiving the things that we want nearly so much as it is accepting from God the things that He gives.
            1. Tribulation works patience.
            2. Don’t try to wiggle out of what God is doing.
            3. Job 13:15
         5. William Barclay described constancy in this way:
            1. It is not the patience that sits down, bows its head and lets things descend upon it and passively endures until the storm passes.
            2. It is the spirit which can bear things, not with resignation, but with blazing hope.
            3. It is not the spirt which sits statically enduring in one place, but the spirit which bares things because it knows that these things are leading to a goal of glory.
4. constancy develops character (romans 5:4)
   1. “Experience” here is translated many times as “character.”
   2. God wants to build into us character.
      1. Reputation is what others think about us; character is what God and your spouse know about you.
   3. The word “experience” was used in the Bible to describe gold that’s tried in the fire and comes out pure.
      1. God will put us in the fire of affliction to test us.
         1. The faith that can’t be tested can’t be trusted.
         2. This is the way we learn how much dross there may be in our lives that needs to be burned out of our lives.
   4. The times we grow the most are not when everything is going fine, but when we are going through sorrow and pressure and trouble.
      1. Robert Browning Hamilton: “I walked a mile with pleasure; she chatted all the way. But left me none the wiser for all she had to say. I walked a mile with sorrow, and not a word said she. But oh the things I learned from her when sorrow walked with me.”
   5. As God builds character into our lives, He does not remove us from difficulty or pain.
      1. God is in the transformation business.
         1. God does not take away evil; He transforms it.
            1. God didn’t stop the crucifixion; He gave us Easter.
      2. God’s method is not the method of substitution.
         1. We want God to give us health instead of sickness, wealth instead of poverty, friendship instead of loneliness.
         2. We want God to substitute things.
      3. God took Paul’s weakness and transformed it into strength.
      4. Job 23:10
   6. There is no way we are going to have character, which is translated “experience,” without experience.
      1. We can be instantly spiritual but we cannot be instantly mature.
         1. You can only be young once, but you can be immature for a long time.
   7. Most of us just want to get out of the fire of affliction.
      1. God knows what He is doing.
      2. The refiner who is refining gold knows that it is pure when he can see his face reflected in it.
         1. God is looking for His character, His likeness, reflected in our lives.
5. character will give confidence (romans 5:4)
   1. The word “hope” in the Bible does not mean “maybe so” or “it might be.”
      1. The word “hope” means “rock-solid faith.”
         1. The Second Coming of Jesus is called “the blessed hope.”
            1. Titus 2:13
            2. This is not the “blessed maybe;” it is talking about hope as an anchor of the soul.
   2. Hebrews 6:19
   3. When we’ve been through the fire, we know that He has not failed us and that He has kept His Word.
   4. Romans 8:38-39
   5. Hope is faith in the future tense.
      1. It believes God not only for the present, but also for the future.
      2. No matter what, we have that absolute confidence.
   6. Romans 5:4-5
      1. “*Maketh not ashamed*” means it will never disappoint us.
      2. God cannot fail, and He will not fail.
         1. But we need to get a bulldog grip on the things that really count.
      3. No one ever has or ever can put his faith in Jesus and then be disappointed or ashamed that he did.
   7. Character enables us to trust God in the darkest storm.
      1. Hebrews 6:19
6. CONCLUSION
   1. Ephesians 4:18
      1. The Apostle Paul spoke of those who were lost as being alienated from the life of God without hope in this world.
   2. There is a hope, not a maybe but a certainty.
      1. That hope begins with conversion.
   3. Would you like to be saved today?
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16